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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

In the prophetic vineyard of Isaiah, You God Almighty, are recognized as the vine grower. Your people are the treasured vineyard which is cared for by the vine dressers. As believers and servants of Your people, the Members of Congress, viewed as the vine dressers, turn to You, Lord, in prayer. You must bless their work for You alone can produce lasting results in the roots and all the branches.

Only a healthy and prosperous vineyard will provide good wine for the tables of life in America. Yet, so much depends on climatic incidents, the soil, the water, the sunlight, as well as the human labor of distinguished pruning and attentive care.

Lord of the vineyard, help Congress to seize the right moments and make the right decisions. Especially during difficult times do the vine dressers need to cultivate together and be discerning. Only by mutual trust and conversation can there be a structured response focused not only on the long hanging produce or just on some of the branches, but concern for the whole vineyard.

For the entire vineyard, beginning with the grafted vine from the foreign soil to the very best vintage, Lord, belongs to You, now and forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches on each side.

### HURRICANE VICTIM IS HURRICANE VILLAIN

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, she lost her house, she lost her way of life, and she lost her innocence. She had fled Katrina. She fled to Texas. But also fleeing with the good were the bad, and then the ugly happened.

Matthew Lindsey, registered sex offender from Louisiana, fled to Texas. He got that free FEMA money and those free FEMA hotel rooms. But FEMA would not let Texas lawmen see their database and cross-check for criminals like Lindsey. It was private, they said.

So it was then while baby-sitting 12 kids at a shelter he molested this 8-year-old girl. Now one little girl has emotional scars that will forever be with her.

Lindsey was one of 146 sex perverts that took the name "hurricane victim" and became that hurricane villain.

Congress must stop this nonsense and make FEMA quit protecting the lawless. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Fraternal Order of Police supports such legislation. We cannot stop hurricanes; we can stop sex offenders. We can force FEMA to help the lawmen find the outlaws and thereby save the innocent.

And that's just the way it is.

### IGNORING FISCAL CRISIS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House we started the appropriations process, and that continues today, but the problem is that the Republican leadership and the President continue to ignore the fiscal crisis that they have created here in the Congress and across the country.

As you know, we passed a budget this week, but at the same time the debt continues to rise and so much of the money actually being spent is going towards the war in Iraq which is not really being addressed. In fact, many times, the budget simply masks that because it does not include the funding and the cost of the war in the budget itself.

So what I say today, rather than just focus on the appropriation bills and the different items back and forth, the Republican Congress should look at the overall picture. They just passed another tax cut bill, with tax cuts primarily going to large corporations, special interests, wealthy individuals, not the average American; and they continue to increase the debt.

Spending is also out of control, and they are not doing anything about it. Unfortunately, over the long term this leads to a fiscal crisis. We continue to go into debt. We don't have the money available to borrow for new production, and the Republicans need to address this fiscal crisis. They are not doing it, Mr. Speaker.

### HOUSE PASSES REASONABLE BUDGET RESOLUTION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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